9th Quarterly Report

![SAFERWORLD — PREVENTING VIOLENT CONFLICT. BUILDING SAFER LIVES]

Community Initiatives for Common Understanding

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1. Introduction

Saferworld, in collaboration with Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre (CWIN) and Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC), is implementing a 3-year project entitled 'Community Initiatives for Common Understanding' (CICU), funded by USAID. Based on the assumption that constructive interaction and cooperation at the community level for peace and development can bridge political, ethnic and ideological divides, the project aims to contribute to an environment that is shaped by trust and strong social ties between communities, including conflicting groups and local authorities, which makes them resilient to social divides, insecurity and conflict.

The project has three expected results:
- **Result 1:** *Barriers to peaceful dialogue are broken down and mutual understanding and appreciation of grievances between conflicting groups increased.*
- **Result 2:** *Conflicting groups are able and willing to identify activities for development and reconciliation and collaborate toward their implementation*
- **Result 3:** *State actors at district and national level are better aware of and willing to integrate lessons learnt into conflict sensitive development and rehabilitation programming.*

While the project follows a community-based approach, it mainly focuses on 9,000 hard-to-reach and at-risk young people, including former combatants. Secondary audiences for this project are government stakeholders and decision makers at the district and national level. The project is implemented in five districts of Nepal: Kailali, Surkhet, Banke and Bardiya in the Mid- and Far West; and Sunsari in the East. It targets 3 VDCs in each district.

2. Context Update

During the reporting period, the context was dominated by the promulgation of the constitution, and the resultant proposed federal structure and other key constitutional provisions, including the proposed representation calculations within the proposed electoral system, triggered violence and protests in parts of the hilly area and southern Terai including Jumla, Surkhet, Baglung and southern Terai districts, including all of CICU's working districts. In many parts of the country, the protests became violent. *Tharuhat-Tharuwan* and *Madesh*-based parties protested against the then-proposed constitution draft in Tikapur, Kailali on 25 August, which turned violent with nine people killed, including eight police and one child. By the end of August 2015, 21 people have been killed in different parts of the country since the unrest started. In response to the violence, the government declared a curfew in areas of unrest, which allows the Nepal Army to be freely mobilized in the aforementioned sensitive areas. To maintain the security situation amidst violence in many parts of the country, the government has decided to mobilize the army under the coordination of the Chief Development Office as per the provisions of the Local Governance Act in selected districts, in addition to a curfew being imposed in highly disturbed districts across the Terai.

As a result of the earthquake, the Nepal Police established a High Level Task Force (HLTF) on 7 June, 2015 for anti-trafficking activities. This formation was created on the assumption that traffickers would become active in the post-earthquake scenario. Subsequently, the HLTF was formed with the DIG Mingmar Lama, director of Nepal Police's Crime Investigation Bureau (CIB), Women and Children Service Directorate.

On 8 July, the government unveiled its policy and program for fiscal year 2014/15 with the primary focus being on reconstruction of the structures damaged in the earthquake over the next five years. As a result of a cabinet meeting – on 19 June to provide facility of temporary homes to victims affected by last year's flood, similar to quake victims. The decision applies to flood victims in the districts of Surkhet, Dang, Banke, and Bardiya among others affected.

A major point that developed in the aftermath of the earthquake was the constitution promulgation. The political parties have decided to advance the constitution writing process, also continuing to attempt to resolve the unsettled issues arising as a result of the proposed federal structure, religion, and threshold and dialogue with dissident political parties. The Constitutional Political Dialogue and Consensus Committee has submitted its report to the Constitution Drafting Committee for amendments after integrating people's suggestions in the draft prepared with the consensus of the leaders of four major political parties including Nepali Congress, CPN (UML), UCPN (Maoist) and Rastriya Prajatantra Party Nepal. The Constituent Assembly meeting of August 12 gave the drafting committee five days to finalize the draft of the constitution.

As regards justice issues, three key events occurred this quarter. The Supreme Court of Nepal has instructed the government to set up an Information Technology Tribunal to deal with cases related to cyber-crimes. Secondly, the Supreme Court of Nepal has issued a mandamus order to the Office of General Attorney to adopt protective measures to control sexual violence including rape. Lastly, Incumbent Chief Justice Ram Kumar Prasad Shah retired on 8 July and Kalyana Shrestha was sworn in as the new Chief Justice on the same day. The impact of all three of these points is yet to be seen.

Context from working districts
Due to widespread protests in Kailali, Bardiya, Banke and Sunsari, the general public's day-to-day life faced difficulties. A curfew was imposed in Banke, Bardiya and Kailali, impacting the supply of essential materials, schools remained closed, and long and short distance movement was affected. In Sunsari, commercial hub Itahari and district headquarters Inaruwa faced protest from Hindu groups demanding the formalisation of Nepal as a Hindu nation. Terai-based strikes and protests started relatively later in Sunsari than other Terai districts.

At the time of reporting protests and strikes continue to varying degrees across CICU working districts of Sunsari, Banke, Bardiya and Kailali. This has caused delays in the implementation of the Action Plans; however, as detailed in later sections, some supplemental activities have been conducted in response to the current Terai unrest. Please see below for additional contextual highlights from CICU's working districts:

- The protesting Tharuhat-Tharuwan parties announced that at least one member from each Tharu household should participate in the protest; if they fail to do so Rs. 500 will be charged for the general public and Rs. 1000 for the social leaders/Badghar. Initially this announcement was followed; however, participation has since tapered off.
- Six adolescent girls were rescued in Nepalgunj who were being trafficked to India. Trafficker Obisara Rana was also arrested.
- Bardiya district has been declared an Open Defection Free (ODF) area on June 12, 2015. It is the first ODF district in the Terai Region. The Mohammandpur Youth Group (YG) even received an award from Mohammandpur VDC in recognition of their contributing efforts.
- 4.2 million rupees was collected for the earthquake victims in Bardiya District, which speaks to the larger solidarity of the district's citizens, despite the unrest that later unfolded.
- Registered conflict victims in Bardiya district received their third instalment of relief support via the Local Peace Committee.
- On 23 June, Bheriganga Municipality was declared by the Municipality as a fully vaccinated, ODF, and 100% literate.
- Temporary Police Posts of Kachanapur, Baijapur, Narainapur, and Matehiya VDCs in Kailali were withdrawn after the Tikapur incident.
- In August an unknown group threw a stone in one of the churches of Itahari, Sunsari. Though no damage was incurred, religious tensions are increasing in the district.

3. Accomplishments

This progress report covers the ninth quarter (Q9) of the CICU project. During this period, activities under Milestone 24 were completed and progress made in achieving Milestone 5, 10, 16 and 25.

The following activities were completed this quarter:
a) **Milestone 16 (Informal justice mechanisms have been identified in each VDC), Output 16.1: Methodology for informal justice mapping update has been refined**

Milestone 16, output 16.1 has been completed with a refined research methodology. The project has prepared the methodology through brainstorming within the Saferworld Nepal team. In order to refine the methodology, consultations took place with Saferworld's Regional Security and Justice Advisor, Saferworld's Policy Team based in London, and input was received from other Saferworld country offices, as well as the USAID DG office. The project has further consulted with local partners' District Coordinators to refine the methodology to include their local knowledge on the situation, gaps, and needs of the formal and informal justice mechanisms in the working districts.

b) **Milestone 16 (Informal justice mechanisms have been identified in each VDC), Output 16.2 Capacity building for at least 10 researchers conducted**

A three-day training was conducted on 28-30 July 2015 in Kathmandu. The participants of the training were: selected researchers for field data collection, potential researchers, staff

from CICU sub-partners, USAID DG office staff, and one participant from CMM implementing partner. Staff from CICU sub-partner and CMM implementing partner Mandwi were included in the training, beyond the original Milestone requirements, with the aim of ensuring that funds were used for building local capacity. There were all together 12 participants in the training, which was facilitated by Saferworld. The training covered key research concepts including Key Informant Interviews, Focus Group Discussions, and selected tools including spatial mapping, daily routine exercise, conflict tree and actor mapping for qualitative data collection.

c) **Milestone 24 (Partners technical and organization capacity needs built for year 2), Output 24.1 CWIN and INSEC capacity needs for year 2 addressed**

CWIN and INSEC's Organizational Capacity Needs Assessment (OCNA) was conducted in second half of 2014to identify the capacity needs of CICU implementing partners. The OCNA of both partners included an action plan to enhance capacity. Based on the OCNA action plan, a separate action plan was developed, including prioritized training needs and support enhancing the organizational capacities of INSEC and CWIN. INSEC and CWIN capacity development training measures were conducted in Sauraha, Chitwan on 17-24 June 2015, based on the action plan. The training was designed to build the capacities of local partners' human resources in identified areas including report writing, research data collection tools, Conflict Sensitivity Approach (CSA), gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), dialogue for reconciliation, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and financial management. Interactive techniques and lesson-sharing of field experiences were combined with theoretical approaches in delivering the training sessions.

Work in Progress

d) **Milestones 5 (Trust and more constructive interaction/dialogue established between hard-to-reach youth and other at-risk groups and individuals), Output 5.1.1 at least one interaction in each VDC engaging beneficiaries; including the production of at least one short video documentary on a topic related to the conflict and/or conflict resolution**

The footage collection required to produce various video documentaries was accomplished this quarter. '*Kathaharu*', the documentary production consultant, collected footage based on the draft script. A team of three persons including a facilitator, note-taker and camera person travelled to CICU working districts to collect the footage. The 25 April earthquake caused delays to both the collection of footage and its processing into the format required for the main video documentary and the district documentary. Therefore, in the reporting quarter, the timeline of the documentary production was revised. The revised timeline aims to complete all video documentaries (including the main video documentary, 5 district level video documentaries, and a short 3-4 minute summary documentary) is by the end of October 2015.

e) **Milestone 16 (Informal justice mechanisms have been identified in each VDC), Output 16.3 Field research conducted in all districts, data analyzed and validated to produce draft Justice Mapping Report**

On Milestone 16, output 16.3 field research was conducted in all five working districts. The project hired three independent consultants to conduct field research alongside three CICU Saferworld team members. The quantitative data required for the research based on the methodology was collected with the use of research tools such as focus group discussions (FGDs), key informant interviews (KIIs) and actor mapping. At least 4 FDGs and 10 KIIs were conducted in each district. All collected data has now been transcribed, coded and tabulated for further process and analysis. The draft report is expected to be prepared by the end of October 2015 and thereafter a validation workshop will be conducted.

f) **Milestone 25 (Partners technical and organization capacity needs built for year 3), Output 25.1 CWIN and INSEC's capacity needs for year 3 addressed**

Preliminary meetings with CWIN and INSEC were conducted to prioritize capacity needs for the project's third year. Both partner organizations have prioritized organizational capacity enhancement for the third year, and they will consult internally within their respective organizations and put forward their proposals to Saferworld. CWIN has already identified key areas of support including improving in-house data protection and data management systems. As soon as the concrete proposals have been received from partner organizations, Saferworld will move forward with addressing their needs. Saferworld's capacity building for partners, based on these proposals, is planned to take place in quarter 10.

g) **Milestone 10 (Psycho-social support mechanism is functional and selected actors have capacity to provide psycho-social support in 15 VDCs), Output 10.3 Service providers identified meet with individuals to provide psychosocial support**

The Milestone 10, output 10.1 psychosocial strategies and directory were already developed and reported in quarter eight. Similarly, on output 10.2, a ToT on basic psycho-social support and care was conducted (also completed and reported in quarter eight), followed by a group intervention training in Bardiya and Kailali where 288 at-risk youth, conflict victims and other community members participated. In order to achieve output 10.3, a coordination meeting was conducted in Sunsari district including CSOs representatives and district authorities in the district administration office to move forward with the referral mechanism. In Banke, Bardiya, Surkhet, and Kailali potential service providers were identified to meet with individuals to provide future psychosocial support.

4. **Challenges and Lessons Learnt**

Challenges

Continuous protests and strikes called by *Tharuhat* political parties and *Madesh* based political parties in CICU working districts of Banke, Bardiya and Kailali has hampered the implementation of activities in the field. Similarly, protests around the proposed federal structure infuriated locals of Birendranagar, Surkhet since the proposed federal structure would minimize Birendranagar as the potential federal headquarter. The protests, which lasted until 21 August, stopped activities in the working VDCs. Continuous strikes in the working districts have delayed the implementation of action plan activities because of limited

movement due to curfew imposed in parts of working districts. However, the project will cover them once the situation normalizes.

Due to concerns for personal safety in the midst of the protests, the District Coordinator of Bardiyahas avoided travel to the district headquarters, as he comes from a minority background.

Lessons Learnt

The project has been continuously working in collaboration with local authorities, political parties and local civil society organizations. The collaborative approach enhanced visibility, acceptance, and leverage in the working districts. As a result, though the action plan implementation has been affected by the strikes and protests, the project has been able to conduct additional activities aimed at fostering social harmony and mitigating conflicts with substantial participation of community people and local stakeholders despite continuous strikes and unrest. These activities were conducted in response to anticipated potential communal division between hill and Terai people. From the success of these activities highlighted in the next section, the CICU project has learned that the diversity and social and gender inclusiveness of the RDFs and YGs has not only broadened the project's reach within the community but also allowed RDF and YG members to foster deeper trust with not just other community members but in some cases also local political leaders and local authorities. These connections and trust contributed to the voluminous participation of the social harmony activities.

5. **Success Stories**

Despite continuous strike and unrest, the planned and supplemental project activities continued in Sunsari district. Civil unrest observed in Banke, Bardiya and Kailali, however, hampered implementation of planned activities but also provided an opportunity for the project to respond with additional activities contributing to social harmony, mitigation, and management of the current tensions and violent incidents in and around the Terai exacerbated by the proposed constitution (as of the end of the reporting period) and federal structure proposed within. In addition to the achievements outlined below, multi-stakeholder social harmony dialogue events were organized in Kailali and Banke in August with approximately 40participants. Similarly, a multi-party dialogue was facilitated in August in Inaruwa, Sunsari with participation of all major political parties in districts and a cultural event organized in Laukahi, Sunsari for social harmony with participation of more than 700 participants. CICU's weekly radio programme 'Radio *Sadbhav*' in Bardiya has been devoted to improving and maintaining social harmony.

Major Achievements in the reporting period

- A police woman was deployed in Uttarganga, Surkhet as a result of Reconciliation and Development Forum (RDF)/Youth Group (YG) advocacy. RDF/YG has advocated with local stakeholders, including district police, to deploy women police to the Uttarganga police post. The aim of advocating for female police officers is to help increase women's access to justice. Women in rural areas suffer from different

kinds of violence, which are hardly reported as they feel uncomfortable reporting such incidents to male police officers.

- RDF members resolved the dispute regarding the appointment of a female health volunteer in Uttarganga VDC, Surkhet. There was a dispute between two groups over the appointment of the volunteer, which had been ongoing for two years. With the RDF's facilitation a new women health volunteer was appointed and the previous women health volunteer was elected as chairperson of the VDC-level 'mother's group'.

- Uraw community from Laukahi VDC, Sunsari is divided into Hindu and Christian faiths. As a result of this division there were frequent tensions within the community. The RDF and YG of Laukahi, Sunsari has prioritized addressing the Uraw community conflict. A number of meetings, dialogues, cultural activities, and individual and group consultations were conducted to enhance social harmony and reconciliation where approximately more than 1,000 local people in total participated including Uraw residents, political party representatives and CSOs and CBOs representatives. Subsequently, no cases were filed in the local police post by any Uraw in the last month.

- The local government allocated budget for road construction in Laukahi VDC, Sunsari, but there was conflict between two influential political parties on the location of the construction. The RDF and YG successfully brought all conflicting groups in consensus to start construction through several rounds of dialogue.

- A preventive dialogue event was organized on 15th August in Dhangadi, Kailali in order to maintain social harmony around the proposed federal structure that dissatisfied Tharu political parties but led to greater uncertainty among the Undivided Far-West groups. All opposing parties/groups, CSO representatives and district authorities participated in the meeting where a social harmony procession was agreed to be organized the following day. Subsequently, no major unrest surfaced in Dhangadi, Kailali.

6. **Quarterly Work Plan**

Please see Annex A for a full overview of the Work Plan.

7. **Monitoring & Evaluation Performance**

In this quarter a Data Quality Assessment (DQA) was accomplished at the central level with the USAID team. The partners' DQA planned in Banke and Bardiya was postponed due to the current unrest in the Terai. The DQA was especially focused on Performance Indicator Data Sheet (PIRS) and discussed its validity, integrity, precision, reliability and timelines. During the DQA suggestions and feedbacks were provided by USAID to collect information on the Indicator 1.6-6 of those non-RDFs and YGs women's roles supported by the project. USAID also suggested developing a template to collect information on 'mitigated conflicts' to support Indicator 1.6.1-12. Based on the suggestion Saferworld has started to work and collect the data to support the indicator. More information on indicators will be reported in the next quarter.

The updates of the indicators are as follows:

Number of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peace building process supported with USG assistant (1.6-6, Standard)

A template has been developed and disseminated to collect information on this indicator. The project will be able to report on this indicator in the next quarter.

Number of new groups or initiatives created through USG funding, dedicated to resolving the conflict or the drivers of the conflict (1.6.1-12, Standard)

As discussed in the DQA session, Saferworld developed two templates and disseminated to collect information on the substantial role of women in peacebuilding and dispute resolution by RDFs and YGs. The template includes the types of disputes, starting discussion to resolve it, on-going or resolved. Similarly, another format aims to collect information on the substantial role of women in peace building through the CICU project.

Number of USG-funded events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation on a mass scale. (1.6.2-12, Standard)

In this quarter a total of 50 different events (i.e. mass scale activities, training, and interactions) have been organized for peace, social harmony, and awareness and advocacy. Out of 50 different activities; 33 were mass scale activities (i.e. street drama, campaign against domestic violence, child marriage, substance abuse, tree plantation, television dialogue, etc.); 12 were interaction and dialogue; and 5 were training. These activities were designed to build capacity for peace and reconciliation at the community level. All the activities were developed and implemented by Reconciliation and Development Forums and Youth Groups based on the local context. In addition to the aforementioned activities, approximately 50 regular meetings were organized by RDFs and YGs in this reporting period.

Number of people participating in USG-supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build mass support for peace and reconciliation. (1.6.2-14, Standard)

In this quarter, a total of 4,096 people participated in different events, i.e. mass scale activities, training and interactions. Out of the total participants 54% were female and 46% were male. Similarly, with regards to caste and ethnicity the highest percentages (37%) were from *Janajati* communities, followed by *Chhetries* at 26%, and 14% from the *Brahmin* community. The Dalit communities' participation (more than 12% from *Dalit*, *Pahadi* and *Madhesi*) is proportionately satisfactory and about 8% *Madhesi* participated in various events.
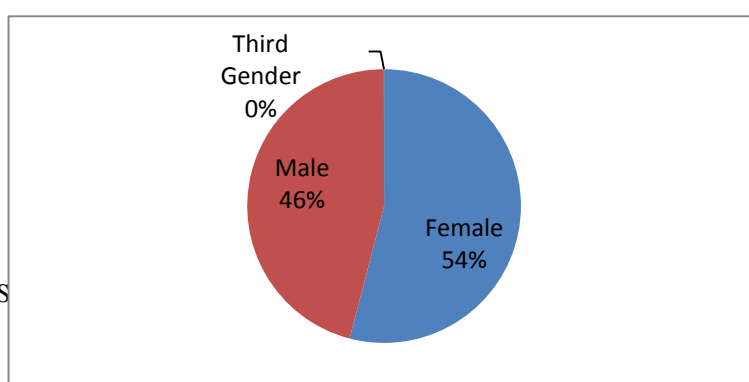
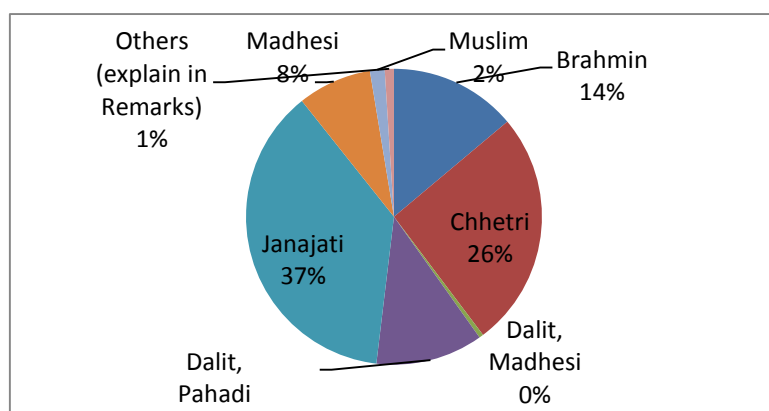*Figure 1: Beneficiaries' Distribution by Gender June-August 2015*

Figure 2: Beneficiaries' Distribution by Caste/Ethnicity June-August 2015

8. List of Annexes

The Annexes included here are the following:

    A) Quarterly Work Plan

Annex A – Quarterly Work Plan

Milestone	Outputs/Activities Planned for this Quarter (June – August 2015)	Planned Timeline	Status (*Completed / On track / Not completed / Not on track*)
24. Partners technical and organization capacity needs built for year 2	24.1 CWIN and INSEC capacity needs for year 2 addressed	Q5	Completed, report will submitted in Q 10
5. Trust and more constructive interaction/dialogue established between hard-to-reach youth and other at-risk groups and individuals	5.1 At least one interaction in each VDC engaging beneficiaries; including the production of at least one short video documentary on a topic related to the conflict and/or conflict resolution	Q7/8	Delayed
10.Psycho-social support mechanism is functional and selected actors have capacity to provide psycho-social support in 15 VDCs	10.1 Psycho-social strategy and directory developed	Q8	Completed, draft report prepared
	10.2 At least 3 orientation/training based on the localized needs and gaps identified under MS description 10.1 carried out from the actors working on psycho-social support from all 15 VDCs	Q8	Completed, draft report prepared
	10.3 Service providers identified meet with individuals to provide psychosocial support	Q8	Ongoing
16. Informal justice mechanism have been identified in each VDC	16.1 Methodology for informal justice mapping update has been refined	Q8	Completed
	16.2 capacity building for at least 10 researchers conducted	Q8	Completed

		Q8	Field research completed, data analysis on going and validation planned in Q10
	16.3 Field research conducted in all districts, data analyzed and validated to produce draft justice Mapping report		
13. RDFs take lead in implementing action plans to address communities' needs to prevent conflict in 5 communities	13.1 Phase I – Group A (5 communities) security needs identified and discussed in participatory manner, and Community Action Plans developed	Q8	Completed, report will be submitted in Q10
17. RDFs develop Advocacy Plans and are trained via regular policy-oriented advocacy meetings (linked to training provided under Result 2)	17.1 RDFs trained and Advocacy Plans developed with each of the 15 RDFs	Q9	Delayed, planned in Q10
25. Partners technical and organization capacity needs built for year 3	25.1 CWIN and INSEC's capacity needs for year 3 addressed	Q9	Ongoing, will be completed in Q10
16. Informal justice mechanism have been identified in each VDC	16.1 Methodology for informal justice mapping update has been refined	Q8	Completed
	16.2 capacity building for at least 10 researchers conducted	Q8	Completed
	16.3 Field research conducted in all districts, data analysed and validated to produce draft justice Mapping report	Q8	Delayed due to earthquake, will be completed in Q10
10.Psycho-social support mechanism is functional and selected actors have capacity to provide psycho-social support in 15 VDCs	10.3 Service providers identified meet with individuals to provide psychosocial support	Q8	Delayed
24. Partners technical and organization	24.1 CWIN and INSEC's capacity needs for year 2 addressed	Q6	Completed

Milestone	Output/Activities Planned for Tenth Quarter (September – November 2015)	Planned Timeline	Status (Completed / On track / Not completed / Not on track)
capacity needs built for year 2			

Milestone	Output/Activities Planned for Tenth Quarter (September – November 2015)	Planned Timeline	Status (Completed / On track / Not completed / Not on track)
17. RDFs develop Advocacy Plans and are trained via regular policy-oriented advocacy meetings (linked to training provided under Result 2)	17.1 RDFs trained and Advocacy Plans developed with each of the 15 RDFs	Q9	Delayed, planned in Q 10
25. Partners technical and organization capacity needs built for year 3	25.1 CWIN and INSEC's capacity needs for year 3 addressed	Q9	On track, will be completed in Q 10
16. Informal justice mechanism have been identified in each VDC	16.3 Field research conducted in all districts, data analysed and validated to produce draft justice Mapping report	Q8	On track, will be completed in Q 10
10.Psycho-social support mechanism is functional and selected actors have capacity to provide psycho-social support in 15 VDCs	10.3 Service providers identified meet with individuals to provide psychosocial support	Q8	On track, will be completed in Q 10
5. Trust and more constructive interaction/dialogue established between hard-to-reach youth and other at-risk groups and individuals	5.1 At least one interaction in each VDC engaging beneficiaries; including the production of at least one short video documentary on a topic related to the conflict and/or conflict resolution	Q7/8	On track, will be completed in Q 10